

The Bee's Home Magazine + Page

THE KING OF DIAMONDS - A THRILLING STORY OF A MODERN CRISTO BY LOUIS TRACY

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Philip, puzzled more than ever at the turn affairs had taken, sat at the solicitors' table until the business of the morning was ended, and then Mr. Abingdon invited him to come to his desk.

"My boy," said the magistrate, "I do not know what to make of the strange situation in which you find yourself. I am sorry you cannot see your way to confide wholly in me, but I am convinced you did not steal the diamonds. Wherever you got them, they are yours, and you are entitled to do as you will with them. But, I must caution you that the possession of such an amount of wealth in the hands of one in your present condition is certain to be looked upon as suspicious, and may get you into trouble again. What are you going to do?"

Philip thanked the magistrate for his kindly words, and admitted he had formed no definite plan, beyond another visit to Isaacstein.

"I think you can do no better," said Mr. Abingdon. "But you must remember that Mr. Isaacstein is a man of business, and has not been accustomed to dealing with boys in your circumstances. Be frank with him, and make him your agent, if you can."

This advice quite agreed with the half-formed plans that flitted through Philip's head, and he so told the magistrate.

"And now I will go to see Mr. Isaacstein at once," he said.

"But," said Mr. Abingdon, "how will you get there? You can not go on foot, for you will find a crowd waiting outside to get a glimpse of the strange boy who has astonished the world by his possession of such an amount of wealth in diamonds. Your story has been in the newspapers and you are now the sensation of London. It will be next to impossible for you to reach Isaacstein unless you have a conveyance."

"I had thought of that contingency, sir," replied Philip, "but I am quite sure that I can manage it. I am accustomed to being alone on the streets, and surely I can make my way from here to Hatton Garden with little difficulty."

"But not with the worth of \$9,000 pounds in diamonds on your person."

"I think I can, sir." "You would better take a cab; I can have one called, and you can leave the court by the side door, and thus attract less attention. You will thus be far safer in your movements."

"I agree with you that for the present I had better be as little conspicuous as possible. I have much to do before I can really set about what I have in mind to accomplish, and first of all I must go to Mr. Isaacstein and make arrangements with him to realize on my diamonds."

"Here are the jewels," said the magistrate, handing him the paper package, in which the gems were wrapped. "Please open it and see that all are there."

Philip did so, telling the magistrate he fully felt that all was right, however. While he was unwrapping and counting the stones and then carefully tying them up again, Mr. Abingdon had requested one of the officers in waiting to summon a cab. When Philip was ready to leave the court room, he said simply: "I thank you."

The magistrate was strangely affected.

"You are a strange boy," he said. "I think you are acting wisely, but—er—you have no money—that is in a sense. Hatton Garden is some distance from here. Let me—er—lend you a cab fare."

"Thank you, sir," said Philip again, and Mr. Abingdon, unable to account for the interest he felt in the boy, quite apart from his inexplicable story, gave him 5 shillings and shook hands with him.

An officer went with Philip to the side door of the court room, where a cab was waiting, but even there a large crowd had gathered to get a glimpse of the boy who had astonished all London with his wealth and his story. The policeman made a way for the boy to the cab, and the astonished driver took the directions with a stare of surprise.

The journey to Hatton Garden was quickly accomplished, and when Philip reached the fare to the driver, the latter declined, saying:

"Hi thinks as 'ow hit's my treat. Y'know, hit's half right, but Hi thinks as you needs the bob more nor me."

And he drove away before even Philip had a chance to thank him or to express gratitude. Inside the door at Isaacstein's,



ISAACSTEIN STEPPED TO A SIDEBOARD AND POURED OUT A STIFF GLASS OF BRANDY. HE SWALLOWED IT AS AN ORDINARY PERSON TAKES AN OYSTER.

"THAT'S BETTER," HE SAID, RETURNING TO HIS

DESK. NOW WE CAN GET TO CLOSE QUARTERS. HAND OVER THE STONES."

PHILIP DID NOTHING OF THE SORT.

"WHY?" HE INQUIRED, BLANDLY. "YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THEM. YOU CAN

much calmness as he could summon to his aid. A ray of sunshine illuminated a bold patch on the top of his head, and the boy found himself idly speculating on developments in the Jew's future life. The man, on his part, was seeking to read the boy's inscrutable character, but the fixity of Philip's gaze at his denuded crown disconcerted him again.

"What are you looking at?" he demanded, suddenly.

"I was wondering how you would look

when you go to heaven. Mr. Isaacstein" was the astounding reply.

The youthful guardian was the great iron key of No.

3. Johnson's Mews, and he was as certain

now that his hiding place was unknown

as that his mother's spirit was looking

down on him from heaven and directing

his every movement.

The dealer, in spite of his own great

lack of composure, saw the fleeting

glimpse of spirituality in the boy's eyes.

Puzzled and disturbed though he was, he

made another violent effort to pull his

shattered nerves into order.

"There is no need to talk all day," he

said, doggedly. "Now I am going to tell

you something you don't know. If your

boast is justified—if you really own as

many diamonds, and as good ones, as

you say you own—there must be a great

deal of discretion exercised in putting

them on the market. Diamonds are val-

uable only because they are rare. There

is a limit to their possible purchasers.

If the diamond mines of the world were to

pour all their resources forthwith into

the lap of the public there would be

such a slump that prices would drop

forty, sixty, even eighty per cent. Do

you follow me?"

"Yes," nodded Philip.

A week earlier he would have said,

"Yes, sir," but his soul was very bitter

yet against Isaacstein.

"Very well. It may take me months

—to realize your collection. To do

it properly I must have some idea of its

magnitude. If there are exceptionally

large stones among it, they must be dealt

with separately. They may rival or

even surpass the few historical diamonds of

the world, but their worth can only be mea-

sured by the readiness of some fool to pay

hundreds of thousands for them. See?

He was favored with a sharp glance at

this remark, but he beat over his dia-

monds again and began to examine them

one by one. He knew that the action

was tantalizing to his companion, and

that is why he did it.

"Were you in earnest when you said

that you have abundance of stones like

those in your hands?"

"So many, Mr. Isaacstein, that you

will have some trouble in disposing of

them. I have diamonds as big—let me

see—as big as an egg."

The wonder is that the Jew did not

faint.

"My God!" he sputtered. "Do you know

what you are saying? Where are they, boy?

You will be robbed, murdered for

their sake. Where are they? Let me

put them in some safe place. I will deal

honestly by you. I swear it, by all that

I hold sacred. But you must have them

taken care of."

"They are quite safe; be certain of

that. Reveal my secret I will not. I

make no unreasonable demands. I frown

to keep the stones now you must

first write a letter stating the agreement

between us. If it is right I will give you

the diamonds. If it is not according to

my ideas you must alter it."

"Do you think I mean to swindle you?"

"I have no views upon that point. I

am only telling you what my conditions

are."

Isaacstein sat back in his chair and

regarded Philip fixedly and with a

Some Examples of the Charm of the New Velvet Brocade



This very modish costume is in pretty frieze and black velours frappe, the latter material being used for the sleeves, ceinture, and tablier. The gilet is of plain velours, in pale tan, fastened with buttons of the same and softened at the neck with a lace frill. The large silk pendents depending from the tablier are tan to match the gilet. Three quaint bunches of colored silk leaves give the tricorne effect to the chic and fascinating chapeau.

Colored velours frappe is the beautiful material of which this model is composed, the trimming and huge muff being of undyed sibeline. The attractive little coat is open at the front, showing a vest of frilled mouseline de sole, and has sleeves of a very new cut. The skirt is made in perfectly simple style, falling in natural folds, with a wide ceinture of the velours. The close-fitting little toque is trimmed with quantity of paradise plumes at the back.

Here we have another illustration of the charm of the rich material, the skirt in this instance being slightly draped up in front. The velours is continued in two high points on the corsage, which is a plain Magyar in chiffon to tone with the skirt. Just bordered with a doigt de fourrure. The jabot and wired collar are of costly lace. The large hat is of plain black velours and garnished with two sprays.

Building a Better Race of Children

By DR. D. A. SARGENT
of Harvard University.

Considering a few of the causes generally conceded to be potent factors in the declining birth rate in most civilized countries, we come to the conclusion that the trouble is largely a conflict between individual instincts and abilities and racial needs. This conflict may be variously expressed as poverty or the in-

ability of the individual to make headway against the many; selfishness, or the unwillingness to assume the responsibility of giving and maintaining life; indifference, preference for other occupations or conscious abstinence from marriage through the lack of physical fitness.

Some of the reasons which are brought

forward in defense of a marriage result-

ing in a few children are unfortunately

justifiable in the light of our social and

economic conditions. It rests with the

thinkers and workers along these lines

to solve this side of the problem through

exercising these qualities of service and

cared, there have also arisen many present

regrettable conditions of physical unfitness,

which has become the task of our age to eliminate.

It is specially this growth of the human

sympathies that has largely checked the

action of the natural elimination of the

weak and sickly and the deformed; and,

while there has accrued much benefit

of the finer emotions of the race through

exercising these qualities of service and

cared, there have also arisen many present

regrettable conditions of physical unfitness,

which has become the task of our age to eliminate.

It is the province of the physical edu-

cator not only to invigorate the individual

for himself, but through him to improve

the race. That is, physical education

offers at least one constructive solution

of the problem of race betterment